

## REMARKS

The Examiner issued a non-final rejection on February 10, 2006.

In the *Office Action*, the Examiner rejected each of the independent claims and dependent claims 5-6, 12-14, 16-17, 21-22, 24-27, and 30-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in light of U.S. patent number 6,425,096 ("*Liese*"). See *Office Action*, 1. Claims 2-4, 7-11, 15, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Liese* and further in view of U.S. patent number 6,466,971 ("*Humpleman*"). The Examiner has, however, indicated that certain dependent claims—including claims 18-20 and 28-29—"are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." *Office Action*, 1.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter. The Applicant has incorporated allowable subject matter into independent claim 1 (e.g., claim 18). The independent claim is now allowable for at least those reasons identified by the Examiner. See *Office Action*, 1. The dependent claims of the present application are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1 from which they depend. As such, the Applicant contends all of the Examiner's rejections to have been overcome.

Per an April 18, 2006 teleconference with the Examiner, the Examiner agreed that method claims including similar subject matter as the system claims may also be allowable. Accordingly, new method claims 38-53 and a new computer readable medium claim 54 have been added. Claims 38-54 neither add new subject matter, nor does the subject matter depart from the subject matter claimed in the allowed system claims.

Claims 22-37 are hereby cancelled thereby making the rejection of those claims moot. Only allowable subject matter remains claimed in the present application and expedited allowance is requested.

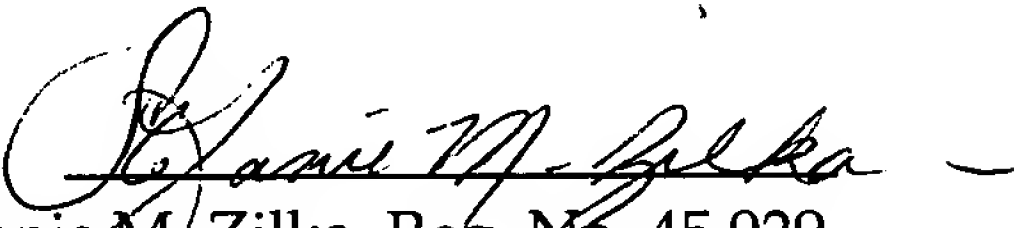
The Applicant notes that the amendment of the claims in this fashion should not be interpreted as the Applicant's concurrence with the Examiner's rejection but, instead, an effort to bring this application to allowance as quickly as possible. In that regard, the Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the previously presented claims and/or new claims directed to previously unclaimed subject matter in a continuation application prior to the issuance of the present application.

## CONCLUSION

The allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner in the *Office Action* has been incorporated into an independent base claim (e.g., claim 18). All claims are allowable for at least those reasons identified by the Examiner in the *Office Action*. As such, the Applicant contends the Examiner's rejections to have been overcome in their entirety and the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative with any questions concerning this amendment and/or these remarks.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles A. Price et al.

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By:   
Stefanie M. Zilka, Reg. No. 45,929  
**Carr & Ferrell LLP**  
2200 Geng Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
Phone: (650) 812-3400  
Fax: (650) 812-3444